

President  
Michael C. Savas, CTIP



Executive Vice President & CEO  
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May 21, 2020

The Honorable Greg Abbott  
Office of the Governor of Texas  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

**RE: Continuation of the Executive Action on April 27, 2020 Suspending Section 121.006(c)(1) of the Texas Civil Practice & Remedies Code**

Dear Governor Abbott:

The Texas Land Title Association (TLTA) continues to applaud your leadership as you guide us through this unprecedented public health crisis and work to re-open Texas' economy. Due to the diligent efforts of you and your staff, Texas is leading the way for the nation. Today we write to request you extend a decision you've already made that's protecting public health and remains key to the continued success of our real estate economy.

On April 27, 2020, the Office of the Governor granted the Office of Attorney General's request to temporarily suspend section 121.006(c)(1) of the Texas Civil Practice & Remedies Code. Minimizing in-person contact with people who are not members of the same household remains necessary to slow the spread of COVID-19, and your decision to temporarily suspend some of the statutory requirements for notarizations in Texas speeds and aids our state's efforts to cope with the COVID-19 disaster.

We respectfully request that you modify this suspension by removing the original May 30 termination date and continuing this crucial public policy as long as the COVID-19 disaster declaration remains in effect.

Since you granted our original request, title professionals have worked within the guidelines made part of the suspension with success and confidence in its security, helping ensure the integrity of real estate transactions statewide. Allowing Texas consumers to continue choosing remote ink-signed notarizations (RIN) until we are clear of this unprecedented public health threat will help augment the physical safety of title professionals and Texas consumers.

TLTA is a statewide trade association that represents the Texas title insurance industry and the 15,000 professionals who work for the safe and efficient transfer of real estate. Our membership comprises over 85 percent of all title insurance agents and underwriters licensed to do business in Texas with active members in 253 of 254 Texas counties.

Our industry's continued implementation of protocols that maximize the health of our community while meeting the needs of consumers is facilitating the re-opening of the state's economy. The accommodation we request will further enhance our ability to serve the public with great efficiency and safety.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance.

Respectfully,

Michael C. Savas, CTIP  
President